

STATEMENT

Yes. The manufacture of Centaure Rockets in India will shortly be undertaken by the Department of Atomic Energy in collaboration with M/s. Sud Aviation of France, with whom an agreement for the supply of know-how and for the grant of a manufacturing licence has, with the assistance of the Centre National D'Etudes Spatiales of France, been concluded.

The agreement *inter alia* provides that M/s. Sud Aviation will:

- (i) sell 6 Centaure High Atmosphere Exploration vehicles (rockets)
- (ii) grant a licence for manufacturing such rockets in India
- (iii) supply complete know-how for the manufacture of such rockets
- (iv) train Indian personnel at the factory of M/s. Sud Aviation and
- (v) provide a few technical personnel to assist the Department in its manufacturing programme.

Communique of Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference.

Dr. L. M. Singhvi:
 Shri M. N. Swamy:
 Dr. Eanan Sen:
 Shri S. M. Banerjee:
 Shri S. C. Samanta:
 Shri Subodh Hansda: ..
 Shri Rameshwar Tanti:
 Shri Bishanohander Seth:
 Shri B. P. Yadava:
 Shri Yashpal Singh:
 Shri Jagdev Singh Siddhanti:
 Shri Vishwa Nath Pandey:
 Shri N. P. Yadav:
 Shri Surendra Pal Singh:
 Shri Bagri:
 Shri Hem Raj:
 Shri Solanki:
 Shri Mahamanda:
 Shri K. N. Tiwary:

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:
 Shrimati Renu Chakravarty:
 Shri P. S. Deshmukh:
 Shri Kolla Venkatesh:
 Shri P. R. Patel:
 Shri M. L. Jadhav:
 *7. Shri Kajrolkar:
 Shri Vasudevan Nair:
 Shri Ram Sewak Yadav:
 Shri Dinen Bhattacharya:
 Shri Vishram Prasad:
 Shri P. Venkatasubbaiah:
 Shri M. L. Dwivedi:
 Shrimati Savitri Nigam:
 Shri Naval Prabhakar:
 Shri Onkar Lal Berwa:
 Shri Dhaon:
 Shri Prakash Vir Shastri:
 hri Ramanathan Chettiar:
 Shri Bade:
 Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:
 Shri Balmiki:
 Shri P. C. Borooah:
 Shri Vidya Charan Shukla:
 Shri Shree Narayan Das:
 Shri Narasimha Reddy:
 Shri P. R. Chakraverti:
 Shri Kashi Ram Gupta:
 Shri Daji:
 Shri H. P. Chatterjee:
 Shri Bibhuti Mishra:
 Shri Sham Lal Saraf:
 Shri B. N. Kureel:
 Shri P. K. Deo:
 Shri Swell:
 Shri Kishan Patttnayak:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state the circumstances under which the representatives of India agreed or acquiesced in the inclusion of a reference to the Indo-Pak problem in the communique of the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference held in London in July, 1964?

The Prime Minister and Minister of Atomic Energy (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): The Honourable Members are aware that owing to my indisposition, I requested Shri T. T. Krishnamachari and Shrimati Indira Gandhi to attend the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference on behalf of the Government of India. On return they

reported to me fully about the proceedings of the Conference.

At the opening session of the Conference on July 8, glowing tributes were paid to the memory of Shri Jawaharlal Nehru. It was stated that, in a sense, the current meeting of Commonwealth Prime Ministers was a memorial to Jawaharlal Nehru since it was his policy which had done so much to transform the Commonwealth relationship and make possible membership by countries with different forms of Government. All continents, creeds, races and societies, were now represented in the Commonwealth which transcended the lines that normally divided mankind and this gave special significance to the deliberations of the Conference.

The results of discussions are reflected in the communique issued after the Conference. As can be seen from this communique, the deliberations of the Conference covered a review of the world situation, the racial discriminatory policy of South Africa, the colonial policy of Portugal and the pending problems of British colonial territories. Other matters related to cooperation between the Commonwealth countries in programmes of economic and social development and measures to increase cooperation between the Commonwealth countries in matters of Commonwealth aid and trade.

Our delegation at the Conference participated in this discussion on various items and made its contributions in accordance with the policies and programmes of the Government of India.

I shall not go into further details about the proceedings of the Conference but would now like to say a few words about the reference to Indo-Pak problems in the communique issued at the end of the Conference. Various views have been ex-

pressed in the Indian Press and by the public on the following reference in this communique:

"The Prime Ministers noted with satisfaction the friendly public statements by the President of Pakistan and the Prime Minister of India and expressed their hopes that the problems between their countries will be solved in the same friendly spirit."

I can well understand the anxiety of the Honourable Members that the Commonwealth Prime Ministers Conference should not be used as a forum for the discussion of problems involving differences between Commonwealth Members. I would, however, like to urge that so far as this particular instance is concerned, it was, I am convinced, a general expression of goodwill and that it did not constitute a departure from the convention that inter-Commonwealth differences should not be discussed at such meetings. I have noted in this connection that representatives of some other Governments who attended the Conference have publicly affirmed that the convention that inter-Commonwealth differences should not be discussed has been fully maintained and that this is a matter for the countries concerned to deal with between themselves. We have ourselves stated publicly that we want to settle our differences with Pakistan peacefully but consistent with our national honour and dignity. Unfortunately this general expression of well-intentioned goodwill at the London meeting has been misunderstood by some in India and has been misinterpreted or misrepresented in certain quarters abroad. We firmly and categorically repudiate the suggestion contained in such misinterpretation or misrepresentation. At the same time we re-affirm our resolve to continue to function with a sense of dignity and responsibility, as a nation dedicated to peace and to the settlement of differences by peaceful methods.